

Defectors and Reintegration: How to Encourage Fighters to Voluntarily Exit Armed Groups



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| Project Title | Defectors and Reintegration: How to Encourage Fighters to Voluntarily Exit Armed Groups |
| Project Summary | Help the State Department’s Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) build a data collection, conduct analysis, and write reports on defections and DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) programs. |
| Country | United States |

Project Description

Given the sheer number of fighters in non-state armed groups across the globe, the need to disengage, rehabilitate, and reintegrate these individuals even in the absence of a cease fire or peace agreement presents significant challenges to the United States. CSO is actively pursuing programs to promote defections and reintegration in support of U.S. national security objectives. The successful applicant would build and organize a data collection on DDR and defections to support U.S. Government officials and U.S. embassies engaged in designing effective defection programs. The applicant would analyze and summarize articles and reports on various aspects of an effective DDR/defection program: evaluating motivations for joining and leaving non-state armed groups, addressing recidivism rates, building host government capacity, or encouraging more local community engagement. The applicant would also help assemble case studies of countries that did implement defection programs and compare/contrast the cases to highlight which national programs succeeded or failed and why. In addition to compiling and analyzing information, the applicant would produce papers presenting their findings.

Required Skills or Interests

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| Skill(s) |
| Data analysis |
| Editing and proofreading |
| Political Analysis |
| Research |
| Writing |

Additional Information

- Currently enrolled in graduate (M.A., PhD) program focused on International Relations or related field
- Outstanding research, writing, and analysis skills
- Ability to work independently while maintaining contact with his/her supervisor to provide status updates
- Courses in conflict theory and resolution, international studies, foreign and security policy preferred
- No additional language requirements other than English is required
- Undergraduates should not apply
- The supervisor is available to discuss the project and its timeframe by telephone
- Must have computer with Microsoft Office (including Word, Outlook, and Excel)

Language Requirements

None